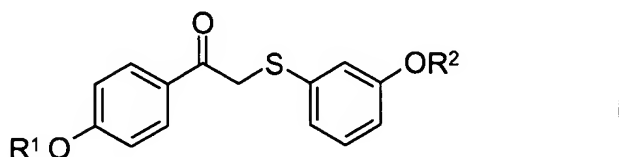
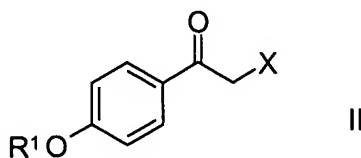


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

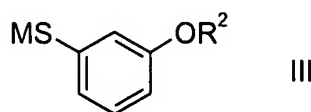
1. (Original) A process for preparing  $\alpha$ -(3-arylthio)acetophenones of the general formula I



in which the substituents  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are each independently  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl,  $SiR^3_3$  where the substituent  $R^3$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$ -alkyl radical, or an optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl radical, which comprises reacting, in methanol acetophenones of the general formula II



in which the substituent X is Cl or Br with a thiolate of the general formula III



in which M is an alkali metal.

2. (Original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-2-[(3-methoxyphenyl)thio]ethanone is prepared.
3. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein M is sodium.
4. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein a thiolate of the general formula III is prepared by reacting the appropriate thiol with sodium methoxide.
5. (New) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein M is sodium.

6. (New) A process as claimed in 5, wherein a thiolate of the general formula III is prepared by reacting the thiol with sodium methoxide.